

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 270948Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1596

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1199

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: CISCO 3 - FONMIN VOLUNTEERS OPTIMISTIC STATEMENT

REF: STATE 098180

1. LEN AND BRUCE CAMPBELL, NICK DOWNEY AND HIS FATHER
(A MEDICAL DOCTOR) AND JOURNALIST GWYNNE ROBERTS
ARRIVED KHARTOUM EARLY APRIL 27. MET BY CONSULAR
OFFICER AND INSTALLED IN LOCAL HOTEL. CAMPBELLS HAVE TWO-
MONTH VISAS ISSUED IN LONDON WHERE REASON FOR TRIP GIVEN
AS "HUMANITARIAN". PARTY BAGGAGE INCLUDES 16 MM MOVIE

PROJECTOR, GENERATOR AND ANCILLARY GEAR. CAMPBELL TOLD
CONSULAR OFFICER GROUPS HOPES LEAVE FOR PORT SUDAN IN DAY
OR TWO BY TRAIN (PORT SUDAN AIRFIELD WAS CLOSED APRIL 18 FOR
UP-GRADING).

2. WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FONMIN MAKKAWI TO DISCUSS
LOS CONFERENCE (SEPTEL) MAKKAWI IMMEDIATELY RAISED SUBJECT
CISCO 2. HE SAID PUBLIC SECURITY AUTHORITIES WERE
EXPECTING POSITIVE NEWS IN NEW TWO OR THREE DAYS WHICH HE
HOPED WOULD CONFIRM EARLY RELEASE CAMPBELL AND HARRELL, AS
WELL AS BURWOOD-TAYLOR. AMBASSADOR SAID THIS WAS WELCOME
NEWS AND TOLD HIM OF ARRIVAL OF LEN AND BRUCE CAMPBELL EARLIER IN
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DAY. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT CAMPBELLS WILL BE SPEAKING AND

ACTING ENTIRELY ON THEIR OWN (REFTEL) BUT HE DID EXPECT THEY WOULD CALL ON HIM. CAMPBELLS HAD RECEIVED LIMITED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IN WASHINGTON, BUT IN GENERAL THEY WERE ON THEIR OWN AND UNDERSTANDABLY SEEKING TO DO WHATEVER THEY COULD TO ACCELERATE EARLY RELEASE STEVE CAMPBELL AND OTHER HOSTAGES. FONMIN AGREED HIS REASSURING MESSAGE COULD BE CONVEYED TO THEM BY AMBASSADOR AND INDICATED SOMEONE IN FONMINISTRY WOULD BE WILLING RECEIVE CAMPBELLS SHOULD THEY WISH TO GET DIRECTLY IN TOUCH WITH GOS OFFICIALS.

3. VIEW NIMEIRI COMMENTS PARA 1 KHARTOUM 1189 DRAWING DISTINCTION BETWEEN BURWOOD-TAYLOR AND CISCO 2, AMBASSADOR COMMENTED PERSONALLY TO MAKKAWI THAT IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE WERE ENGLISH HOSTAGE SHORTLY TO BE RELEASED AND NOT AMERICANS, RELATIVES OF ONE OF WHOM WERE NOW HERE ON SPOT. MIKKAWI AGREED AND SAID THAT, FROM STANDPOINT GOS, EFFORTS WERE GOING FORWARD OBTAIN RELEASE OF ALL THREE HOSTAGES HELD BY PLF. AMBASSADOR REMINDED HIM ONE OTHER AMERICAN WAS ALSO BEING HELD BY ELF. FONMIN SAID GOS WOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THIS CASE EITHER.

4. COMMENT. FACT MAKKAWI VOLUNTEERED STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR INDICATES BOTH (A) GOS AWARENESS OF CONCERN WE ARE ATTACHING TO EARLY PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE, AND (B) IMPROVED LIKELIHOOD EARLY POSITIVE ACTION. SUDANESE CERTAINLY EXPECT AT LEAST HAVE SOME FIRM WORD FROM PLS BEFORE TOO MUCH LONGER.
BREWER

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